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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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DP/PROJECTS/7150

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
COLOMBIA

IPF:(1987-91) $13 100 000

(COL/90/004) - Amazonian Territorial Planning

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	25 September 1991
Expected duration:	Three years and six months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	National Planning Department
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 2 087 100 Source of funds:The Netherlands
Total UNDP budget:	$ 2 087 100

Project background

Forests cover an area of 53 million hectares representing 46 per cent of Colombia. During the last few years an average of 600,000 hectares of forests are being cut every year. About 76 per cent of deforestation has been caused by the colonization of Orinoquia, Amazonia, Uraba and Madgalena Medio. The colonization of the Amazonia, in particular, has generated inadequate productive cycles considering the ecological conditions of this region. Settler populations are moving in short periods of time cutting trees for subsistence and leaving deforestated areas that are only suitable for cattle farming. At the same time, there has been a rapid and disorganized growth of human settlements, without the provision of basic services, that has contributed to worsen the already deteriorated living condition of the inhabitants in this region, that represents a population close to 500 000 people of more than 50 indigenous groups. The fragile ecosystem in the Amazonia is being interfered by settlers and natural resource extractors. This is producing a rapid environmental imbalance, without achieving sustainable development with an adequate use of the land.

Although legislation for the protection and development of natural resources is in place, it has not been sufficient to co-ordinate the activities of the public sector in this area. The presence of the State in the Amazonia and Orinoquia has been characterized by its dispersion due to the size of the region, its isolation from the rest of the country and the lack of co-ordination among the various local administrations. A national policy for the appropriate management of this region does not exist due to a lack of adequate knowledge of its natural and institutional resources as well as to the existence of limited territorial planning instruments and mechanisms.

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The Government of Colombia has requested UNDP to assist the National Planning Department to develop adequate planning instruments for Amazonia and Orinoquia as part of the Colombian Action Forestry Plan, which was supported by UNDP since its inception. The Government of the Netherlands has agreed to provide funds for the implementation of a project in this area.

Description of project

The long-term objectives of the project are to:(a) achieve the third objective of the Fourth Country Programme which is to strengthen the management capacity of the State; (b) concentrate on the fourth concentration area foreseen in the Fifth Country Programme which is to support the design and implementation of programmes in the area of the environment;and (c) create instruments and mechanisms at the regional level to strengthen and consolidate the regional planning system, particularly in those aspects related to the definition of policy objectives for the region of Amazonia and the management of renewable natural resources.

The immediate objectives of the project are to:(a) present alternative planning scenarios to be used in the formulation of development policies and strategies of the region, through the creation of a geographical information system that includes the collection and classification of information, map design and matrix correlation taking into account biodiversity, indigenous reserves, human settlements and colonization; (b) establish co-ordination mechanisms and promote the participation of the different governmental institutions at central and regional levels, NGOs and the local communities; and (c) strengthen the capacity of institutions in Amazonia and Orinoquia in order to manage and plan natural resources through the provision of information systems, procedures, techniques and training of personnel.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 372 work-months of international and national professional personnel in planning, biodiversity, ecological zoning, geology, economics, agriculture, demography, soil degradation and erosion, history, botany, and cartography; subcontracts with NGOs for field work and the application of appropriate technologies; training programmes through workshops in regional planning, conservation of natural resources, information systems, data collection and study tours; equipment for information systems, cartography, laboratory, remote sensing, photography and communications; administrative support; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 218 200
Subcontract	259 000
Training	133 300
Equipment	240 400
Miscellaneous	228 200
Total	2 087 100

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
GUINEA

IPF:(1987-91) $ 41 306 100
(GUI/90/007) - Implementation of Housing Policy

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	4 September 1991
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	World Bank
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 358 400 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 358 400

Project background

When the Government of the Second Republic of Guinea took over the reins of the country in April 1984, Guinean cities, including the capital city of Conakry, were ill-equipped to support the development of economic activities. Most infrastructure was in a state of utter dilapidation and disrepair. Housing became a critical social issue due to increased urban population growth of about six per cent per annum. With the assistance of the World Bank under its **First Urban Project**, and its Economic and Financial Recovery Programme, launched in 1985, the Government initiated significant improvements in Conakry's physical environment and identified key actions to strengthen the secondary cities. Drainage rehabilitation, garbage collection and urban road improvement programmes were carried out. Despite these achievements, close to 70 percent of Conakry's population still lives in under-serviced and over-dense areas. Furthermore, the recent growth in the economy and improvement of the inter-urban road network have necessitated increased support to secondary cities.

Under the First Urban Project, through its World Bank-executed project (GUI/87/010), UNDP assisted the Government in developing a new housing policy which seeks to develop new housing and land in the outskirts of Conakry, restructure and modernize existing housing, ensure financing for housing and construction, and set up legal framework, especially the land ownership regulations.

Government's strategy for the urban sector: Recognizing the importance of the role of urban regions in its economic recovery programme and sustained growth, the Government's strategy for the urban sector aims at improving the functioning of Conakry and secondary cities as centres of economic growth through a three-pronged approach of: (a) infrastructure upgrading; (b) institutional strengthening; and (c) local resource mobilization.

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Second Urban Project: In order to assist the Government in implementing its strategy for the urban development and to consolidate the achievements of the First Urban Project, the World Bank started in September last year its Second Urban Project with a total budgetary provision of(US)$ 81.7 million (IDA credit $57 million, UNDP $ 1.0 million, Caisse Centrale de Coopération Economique de France $ 14 million, Fonds Francais d'Aide à la Coopération $1.5 million and Government of Guinea $8.2 million). UNDP assistance requested under the project is an integral part of the Second Urban Project and figures also in the Technical Co-operation Programme of Guinea. The Second Urban Project will help reduce poverty in urban areas and stimulate urban employment by providing improved economic and physical environment. The project will be executed in close co-ordination with the Environmental Action Plan of Guinea, and will provide improved living and working conditions in Guinean cities.

Description of project

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing which is composed of three Directorates and a Cabinet is directly responsible for the Second Urban Project and consequently for the UNDP project as well. The Directorate. are: Land Development (DAFO); Construction and Architecture (DACO) and Regional a.d Urban Development (DATU). DATU is responsible for developing new sites to produce 4000 housing units per year in Conakry. The first operation will be that of developing the site of Lambanyi (200 hectares).

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen technical capacities of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the Governorate of the City of Conakry, Société de Logement Prix Modéré (SOLOPRIMO) and Société Mixte d'Aménagement et de Construction (SOMACO) to conceptualize and implement the housing policy in general and the Second Urban Project i.e. development of new housing sites at Lambanyi in particular; (b) create conditions for financing the development operations and construction; (c) ensure replicability of housing and land development operations of a scale sufficient to accomodate urban growth; (d) improve the physical and legal framework in which the private sector can produce housing; (e) set up mechanisms for savings and credit; and (f) provide necessary information to national housing experts and policy makers through training and seminars in order to enable them to take decisions concerning the improvement of urban living conditions.

Inputs

UNDP will provide services of a consulting firm to the Directorate for Regional and Urban Development (18 man-months), a commercial expert for 24 man-months to SOLOPRIMO, a municipal engineer/expert in land development for the City of Conakry (24 man-months); short-term consultancies in housing finance and setting up of a People's bank; a national expert and administrative support; individual fellowship training, zonal and national workshops; and two vehicles.

Financial data

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Personnel	776 400
Subcontract	388 000
Training	83 000
Equipment	41 000
Miscellaneous	70 000
Total	1 358 400

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
ARGENTINA

IPF: (1992-96) $ 9 455 000

(ARG/88/008) - Strengthening the General Tax Revenue Directorate
(Supplementary Assistance)

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	2 October 1991
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Dirección General Impositiva (DGI)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil
Government cost sharing:	$ 4 234 600
Previous UNDP contribution:	$ 900 300
Total UNDP budget:	$ 5 134 900

Project background

The economic adjustment programme currently under implementation in Argentina with financing from IBRD and the IMF emphasizes increased internal revenue generation as a sine qua non for its success. As part of the measures put into operation in the late 1980s the Government of Argentina initiated a reform programme related to the restructuring of the public sector and especially the tax system and the management thereof, which will contribute towards a sustained increase of internal revenue generation through direct and indirect taxation. The continuous economic crises had gradually led to unsustainable levels of tax evasion and elusion. Tax simplification and the establishment of a new penal legislation are the main instruments of the tax reform initiated in October 1989.

The programme for strengthening the General Tax Revenue Directorate (DGI) is aimed at increasing the operational capacity of this national tax collection and inspection agency for the effective implementation of the tax reform. The main problems identified by the DGI stem from the lack of adequate and opportune information to systematically monitor tax payment of at least the largest taxpayers in the country. With access to such information, the DGI will increase revenue only marginally since the internal systems applied are so cumbersome that the available information will only be of value with the introduction of an efficient computerized system for checking the 1,000 Largest Taxpayers which accounts for 50 percent of the revenue during a first stage and eventually increasing the number to 30,000/35,000 Large Taxpayers throughout the country.

The DGI has neither standard internal auditing programmes nor administrative control systems in place, and its human resources are inadequately trained to carry out a sustained

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effort of monitoring tax payments which accentuates the need for generalized training in order to attain the required quality levels. The DGI, the Ministry of Economy, IBRD and the IMF attach great importance to this Programme as a centrepiece in the Argentinean adjustment process. To finance this package an IBRD Loan 3015-AR totalling (US)$ 6.5 million was signed in October 1989 for which a MSA (ARG/89/RO2 - Strengthening of the DGI) was signed with UNDP/OPS in the amount of (US)$ 3,068,100 for the purchase of 200 PCs and standard software.

In January 1989 the technical assistance project (ARG/88/008) was signed with a budget of (US)$ 697,250 financed from IBRD/PPF to cover necessary preparatory activities for the formulation of the programme with IBRD. To continue this assistance the Government requested extension of the project under the present approval.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to include up to 30,000/35,000 large taxpayers distributed geographically throughout 14 regions of the interior as well as the strengthening of 16 agencies in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires and six operational units of fiscal interest, and interconnect the system to the central host computer of the DGI.

The immediate objectives of the project remain to : (a) set up a programme for tax payment management and control, at a first stage, of the 2000 Largest Taxpayers (DOSMIL-component); (b) develop an internal control and management system, computerization of the budgetary functions and improve the Internal Auditing tasks (AUDINT Component); (c) develop fiscal auditing procedures for identifying gaps in tax payment evasion and design of control systems to render the procedures more effective (METFIS Component); (d) design and implement an Integrated System for the Control of Fiscal Duties (SICOFI) including the necessary equipment (EQUIPA component); (e) select new inspectors, programmers and analysts (SELPER component); and (f) train DGI personnel and officials (CAPPER component).

Inputs

UNDP will provide one expert (one man-month) and 17 consultants in related revenue areas and administrative support; a subcontract for computer systems based on a turnkey approach; an IBM computer, RS/6000 520 model, database license equipment for SICOFI including license contracting for the development and implementation of applications and training and maintenance of a database manager; equipment for training material for the EQUIPA component; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	664 100
Subcontract	2 723 200
Equipment	804 400
Miscellaneous	42 900
Total	4 234 600

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
ARGENTINA

IPF:(1987-91) $ 9 455 000

(ARG/90/012) - Consulidation of Computerization
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	25 September 1991
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 550 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 7 106 900
Total UNDP budget:	$ 7 656 900

Project background

The above-mentioned project proposal has been designed on the basis of the outcome and the in-depth evaluation of the project (ARG/86/026) Computerized Systems in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which was completed in late 1990. The initial impetus for ARG/86/026 was the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen its institutional framework to manage more efficiently the workload and the day-to-day operations of the Ministry. UNDP was requested to provide technical co-operation within the Country Programme-framework of assisting in the overall strengthening of the public sector in Argentina.

During the early and mid-1980s the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shared the general characteristics of serious deterioration of the Argentinean public sector. This had a detrimental effect on foreign policy formulation and commercial relations in a period when the country decided to initiate an aggressive effort to redefine and open its political, economical and commercial relations to help it stabilize its democratization process. This effort coincides with the need to rationalize the public sector as an element in the country's economic adjustment programme.

The approach chosen during the first phase was to design and put into operation a cost-efficient computer facility to a large variety of users in the Ministry and its offices abroad. This objective has been successfully accomplished, and the main outputs are:(1) 400 workstations installed and operative in Buenos Aires and in 10 embassies giving users access to a series of computerized functions supported by a centralized server architecture;(2) 700 staff members of the Ministry trained in use of different software

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packages; 450 in dispatch, receipt and tracking of cables as well as 250 in electronic mail;and (3) systems installed in Buenos Aires and in embassies/consulates such as: Electronic Mail, Task Management System, Document Movement System that allows telex generation, dispatch, receipt and tracking, Basic Word Processing, Personnel System, Semi-automatic capture of incoming cable headers.

The overall effect of the computer systems and services produced with the assistance of the project have been to significantly increase productivity and simplify administrative procedures. An independent evaluation mission undertaken in mid-1990 recommended strongly that the project should be enthusiastically supported and "lessons learned here could be applied to other projects in the public sector in Argentina, Latin America as a whole and perhaps even elsewhere". The second phase of the project proposed by the Ministry will consolidate and extend key services developed on an experimental basis, and will enable the development focus to shift to the administrative systems, such as Personnel, Accounting, and Payroll.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to strengthen the Ministry's management capacity and administrative efficiency by assisting the Ministry in carrying out its foreign policy making and implementation functions, and making its administrative operation manageable and efficient.

The immediate objectives of the project are to:(a) utilize systematically office automation facilities, daily work standardization, and communications, and international data base and networks access;(b) enable 80 embassies and consulates to operate the new systems;(c) put in operationadministrative systems, such as Personnel,Accounting and Payroll;(d) eliminate delays and make readily available information for budgetary decisions;(e) implement new software applications; (f)train 200 Ministry staff in addition to the staff already trained;(g) implement the electronic mail network for the academic and scientific institutions; and (h) strengthen the Informatics Unit of the Ministry.

Project activities will include:(a) installation and deployment of standard hardware and software;(b) design, development and deployment of tailor-made software both in Buenos Aires and in embassies and missions abroad; and (c) training and support of Foreign Service Staff and officials in the use of the computerized systems.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 576 man-months of administrative support;3268 man-months for experts and consultants in fields such as informatics, systems development, installation/maintenance of systems and specialized training; on-the-job training ; resources for project personnel travel to embassies and consulates for the installation of systems and equipment; expendable non-expendable equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 460 200
Training	1 037 200
Equipment	3 330 000
Miscellaneous	829 500
Total	7 656 900